
USAID HIGHLIGHTS

U.S. Provides More Than \$30 Million for Health and Education Projects in Cambodia

Phnom Penh, Cambodia

September 12, 2007



Erin Soto, USAID Mission Director signing agreements with H.E. Hor Namhong, Deputy Prime Minister, and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation providing more than \$30 million for health and education projects in Cambodia.

The United States Government and the Royal Government of Cambodia will sign amendments to two bilateral agreements that will provide a total of \$26.76 million in 2007 funding from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) to support Cambodian priorities in health and education. The programs will be implemented by USAID through a variety of international and Cambodian organizations, and in close collaboration and coordination with the Royal Government of Cambodia and other donor agencies. H.E. Hor Namhong, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, and Erin Soto, USAID Mission Director, will sign on behalf of their respective governments.

In addition to the amounts provided under these two bilateral agreements, USAID will provide \$3.32 million through other mechanisms, bringing the 2007 total of USAID assistance to Cambodia for health and education activities to more than \$30 million.

The amendment to the first agreement consists of \$25.77 million in grant funds to impact health objectives. Funds will be used to promote a variety of activities to reduce the transmission and impact of HIV/AIDS; to prevent and control major infectious diseases such as tuberculosis; to improve maternal, reproductive, and children's health; and to strengthen Cambodian public health systems including the technical skills of health care workers.

The amendment to the second agreement will provide nearly \$1 million in grant funds to support Cambodian government education objectives. These funds will support ongoing programs aimed at improving the quality of basic education and access to schooling for all children, including minorities, individuals with disabilities, and the very poor. Activities will focus on implementing the new national curriculum and learning standards, impacting school dropout and repetition rates through improvements in teaching quality, and measuring student academic achievement.

In addition to health and education activities, the U.S. government supports a broad range of programs designed to benefit all Cambodians, including human rights, rule of law, local governance and decentralization, anti-corruption, natural resource management, private sector development, anti-narcotics, and combating trafficking in persons. The United States expects to commit more than \$65 million in assistance to Cambodia in 2007 through such agencies as USAID, the Department of State, the Centers for Disease Control, and the Department of Defense.

The signing ceremony took place on Wednesday, September 12, 2007 at 10:00 AM at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.